

I am deeply troubled to hear about the FCC's pending action to make it easier for broadcast stations to swallow up even more of their competition than is already allowed. Living here in San Diego, where the FCC has allowed Clear Channel Communications to own 13 radio stations, it is quite obvious that even the current policies that allow one company to own thousands of radio stations are detrimental to the consumer. There is a serious lack of programming diversity, it is almost impossible to hear any good local programming on these stations, and the jingoistic nature of Clear Channel makes it unlikely for their media to provide what the news media is commissioned to do: offer a critical voice on politics and popular culture. As well, the secret nature of the proposed changes in the forthcoming meeting makes you, as a governmental organization, look to be controlled by the interest of these large corporations that your upcoming ruling could help, rather than being driven and controlled, as you should, by the best interest of the public and constitutional law.

I urge the FCC board members to take a look at our current media landscape; it is rare to hear a critical voice unless search for what you already want to learn about on the Internet. Your policies that encourage concentration and control and discourage the airing of differing opinions are stifling our democracy by controlling how information ebbs and flows through our democratic process. Please, if you have any care for encouraging America's citizens to learn more, and thereby have the ability to think critically and decide for themselves (rather than have a network producer decide for them), do not support this action.

Sincerely
Isaac Lassiter